

From: Prasad, Ajay K [<mailto:prasad@udel.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Gray, Valerie A. (DNREC)
Subject: VW Settlement Environmental Mitigation Workplan

Dear Valerie,

Thank you for organizing the public hearing last week for the VW Settlement Environmental Mitigation Workplan.

1. As I stated during the meeting, it would be a good idea to solicit projects from a diverse applicant pool. Putting all eggs in one basket would not be a good idea especially if the project does not work out as well as planned. Also, most alternative fuel vehicle acquisitions (such as electric buses) are big ticket items, and so they can completely swamp the budget for a given year. So it might be better to consider several smaller budget projects and spread the funding around.

2. Another thing that I tried to have clarified was the time period of the funding. A 10-year period was stated, but it seemed like you were looking for input on that as well? My belief is that 10 years is probably too long as that translates to \$0.9M/year which can limit the size and scope of projects that can be funded. Perhaps 5 years is a more reasonable time period.

If you would like to add the above two items to your website where you are seeking input from the public, that would be fine.

I have one final question for you which is specific to our Fuel Cell Bus Program. So far, we have invested several million dollars in our fuel cell buses, maintenance garage, hydrogen refueling station, and training and education programs. We would like to leverage our existing fuel cell bus fleet and infrastructure when we submit our proposal when the VW Settlement RFP becomes available. We would like to seek funds to continue our program for additional years, helping to bring our buses into the urban community where air pollution is high, train drivers and maintenance technicians, and continue to push the technology towards commercialization and job growth in Delaware. Hence, we would not be looking to add new buses, but rather seek funding to help our existing zero-emission fleet continue operations into the future. As such, our request would represent a small fraction of the funds already invested in our program. I hope the RFP could be worded to allow such a project.

We would be happy to host you at UD to give you a personal tour of our latest accomplishments, or alternatively, we would be glad to visit you in Dover and give you a presentation.

Thank you!

Ajay